

Note for the File

Event	TCN Working Group Meeting
Date and Place	08.04.2022 12:00, Teams
Attended by	See participant list below
NFF prepared by	Natalie Payne

Overview:

- Focus on education with speakers from Foreigners in Ukraine In Need of Help Initiative
- WG ToRs accepted
- Striving to identify national partners to work with us on the group; possibility of meetings in Polish - no feedback from participants as of yet

Participant List:

- Emma Proust (IOM Poland)
- Natalie Payne (IOM Poland)
- Pawel Barabasz (IOM Poland)
- Hanna Dobrzynska (IOM Poland)
- Aga (Clear Global/TWB)
- Elena Wasylew
- Francois Kernin (UNHCR)
- Jacek
- Mala Roche
- Maria Ossolinska
- Maria Flores (Habitat for Humanity)
- Marta Staniszewska – Salam Lab
- Michal Zawistowski
- Pawel Dworakowski
- Rola Cahrkieh (ERCO INTERSOS)
- Miloslawa Stepien (Foreigners in Ukraine In Need of Help Initiative)
- Przemyslaw Bednarz (Foreigners in Ukraine In Need of Help Initiative)

Follow up action points:

- Participants to provide information on reliable organisations across Poland that provide support to TCNs fleeing Ukraine to the mapping document (see SharePoint folder)

Summary of Relevant information:

TCN's Legal Status

- Those who were refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection fall under EU directive for protection for year w possibility of extension, Office for foreigners issues certification
- Those were APPLYING for protection in Ukraine - 15 days legal stay
- Or they can apply for asylum in Poland or temporary residence permit
- Or category 16 'other circumstances'

Foreigners in Ukraine Need of Help Initiative, Miloslawa Stepien - Bottom Up Initiative

- Help for those looking for transportation and legal advice
- University in Ukraine is relatively well-recognized, high-quality and low-cost
- Students in Ukraine only had temporary residence and are not covered by the EU directive
- Many wish to continue their studies but cannot afford to do to in EU, many studying medicine, pharmacology, engineering, etc. Many African students studied in Ukraine. Some have returned home, some have applied for temporary residence, and many remain here irregularly.
- Huge operation allowed Indian government to evacuate close to 2000 students for repatriation to India

- Lacking personnel and resources to promote the issue

Challenges

- Expense of continuing studies in Europe, language barriers
- Some don't have access to their transcript/study records
- Most study options in EU target Ukrainian nationals
- Some Ukrainian universities are attempting to provide online classes still and need support in helping these students
- Most open university in terms of TCNs in Poland is Warsaw school of economics - organization looking to collect information

Detention

- Difficult to obtain info on TCNs in detention - 52 foreign nationals from Ukraine in Polish campus 3 weeks ago, only have contact with a few of them, majority students, have arranged legal intervention for them
- Those detained allegedly are detained owing to the fact they are in the asylum procedure. (Premyslaw Bednarz)
- Organisation sent a letter to Joe Biden during his visit to Poland, to response so far from embassy or administration letter translated to Ukrainian and to be sent to all Ukrainian Universities
- Meetings upcoming with anti-racist and TCN working groups on Europe level
- Prepared letter to African Union
- Prepared petition to members of parliament

Q and A

- Aga: what kind of support would they need from this group to support their work
- Information gathering, structured advocacy
- Sejm motion may allow legal stay, but would need students to apply for a visa

Next week's focus: *mapping on support available to TCNs*